Cauvery River Authority

*307. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which Cauvery River Authority was established;

(b) what are the names of members of this Authority;

(c) the number of times the Authority has met so far, year-wise; and

(d) what are the main decisions taken by the Authority?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) The Cauvery River Authority (CRA) was constituted through a notification dated 11th August, 1998 to give effect to the implementation of interim order dated 25th June, 1991 of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) and all its related subsequent orders.

(b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister is the Chairman of the CRA with the Chief Ministers of the Cauvery basin States namely Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondichery, as members.

(c) The Authority has held six meetings so far. It has held one meeting each in the years 1998, 2000, 2001, two meetings the year 2002 and one meeting in 2003.

(d) Decisions taken by the Authority are given in the Statement.

Statement

Decisions taken by the Cauvery River Authority

Date of Meeting	Main Decisions
14.7.00	Authority approved the Rules and Regulations for Conduct of the Business of the CRA. It was also agreed that Government of Karnataka would endeavor to make good the deficit in inflow into Mettur reservoir for the month of June 2000 within next 30 days and Government of Tamil Nadu would make available the required quantities of water to Pondicherry.

Date of Meeting	Main Decisions
10.10.01	The Authority approved the proposed amendments in the Rules and Regulations for Conduct of the Business of the CRA. After taking note of the drought conditions in the basin in both States Karnataka and Tamil Nadu the Authority directed the Govt. of Karnataka to ensure inflows at Mettur as stipulated by the Tribunal especially in view of the situation being faced in the Cauvery basin of Tamil Nadu. The Authority also decided that storage position in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu be reviewed by the Cauvery Monitoring Committee on a monthly basis and if the situation warrants, it would recommend for convening an emergency meeting of the Authority. The Authority also decided to work out an acceptable and equitable procedure for pro-rate sharing of the Distress and accordinly requested the basin States to put forward their specific suggestions for consideration by the Authority.
27.8.02	It was agreed that there is a distress situation in the Cauvery basin and that the distress will need to be shared among all the basin States and the details of distress sharing formula can be worked out by the Monitoring Committee within a fortnight.
8.9.02	It was decided that keeping in view the inflows and storages in the four Karnataka reservoirs and in Mettur as well as the requirements of the two States, Karnataka should release waters from its reservoirs so as to ensure an inflow of 9000 cusec at Mettur amounting to about 0.8 TMC per day accounted on a weekly average basis for the months of September and October, 2002. Tamil Nadu in turn will ensure proportionate releases to Pondicherry.
10.2.03	The Supreme Court while hearing an application of Tamil Nadu, ordered on 6.2.2003 that the State of Karnataka shall release sufficient water from its

Date of Meeting	Main Decisions
	reservoirs so as to ensure on an average inflow of 4500 cuses of water per day at Mettur till a final decision is taken by CRA. CRA decided that Karnataka shall continue ensuring 4500 cusec of water per day at Mettur for another three days. Thereafter, the inflows may be ensured by Karnataka as per the interim order of CWDT. Tamil Nadu will make proportionate releases to Pondicherry.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Cauvery water dispute is still pending before the Tribunal. The Tribunal has not yet given its final finding. I hope that it would be given very soon, likely in August, 2004. It has not yet submitted its report...*(Interruptions)*...

Sir, so far as the Chief Minister's letter written to me is concerned, neither do I remember the date nor the contents of the letter. Unless specific details are given, how could I answer?

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, can I furnish the details?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no permission; you kindly send a copy of the letter to the Minister.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Okay, Sir. Then, my second supplementary is: now, the answer of the hon. Minister shows how insensitive the Ministry is, as far as this particular problem is concerned. I would like to know when does this Standing Committee of Experts would submit the report; and when does the Sub-Group of the Technical Experts Committee constituted for suggesting the distress sharing formula submit its report? What is he doing on these? When is he going to consider that formula? When that Technical Committee is going to come up with a report? When would the decision be taken to put an end to this particular problem once for all?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Standing Committee of experts has already submitted its Report. The Distress Management Formula has already been submitted to the Cauvery Monitoring Committee.

But, unfortunately, if I may say so, the Government of Karnataka is not agreeable to that.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Because there is a variation ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need... *(interruptions)*... No, please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: There is a variation in the measurement ...*(Interruptions)*... So, our hon. Chief Minister has written a letter to this effect to the Government of India. And, it is on this letter we wish to know what action the government of India has taken ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vijayaraghavan.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: There is no dispute at all ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G.NARAYANAN: Sir, we should also be given an opportunity to put our supplementary ...*(Interrutions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record without my permission ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seats ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN:*

SHRI R. KAMARAJ:*

श्री सभापति: कावेरी में आते ही सारे क्वैश्चन बह जाते हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, without touching the emotional issues behind the Cauvery issue, I would like to remind the hon. Minister that Kerala is also a party to it. If you go through the reply, you will find that nothing has been mentioned about the due share to Kerala. The reply mentioned about Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no mention about kerala in the Minister's reply. There is a tendency of taking away Kerala's share of water to other parts. Diversion is also taking place. Considering this situation, I would like to know what steps the Central Government have taken to ensure that due share of water is given to the Kerala State from Cauvery ...*(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, unfortunately, the tribunal has not recommended any share in favour of the State of Kerala.

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: This is the serious problem. So, how are you going to protect the interest of Kerala? That is my supplementary. He is saying that the Tribunal did not give any award to release water to Kerala ...*(Interruptions)*... How are you going to solve the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the Tribunal is the adjudicating authority. We will be abiding by its. So, unless, it recommends, we cannot dispute or give anything to Kerala. If, in its final verdict, the Tribunal gives any decision in favour of Kerala, certainly, it is binding on the Government of india ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Smt. Bimba Raikar ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Smt. Bimba Raikar.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: If the Tribunal has not given its verdict, what is the stand of the Central Government?

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that it would be known very 'soon'. When that 'soon' would come? Let the Minister give a definite time-frame. Cauvery water dispute is a very major problem and it is a very long-pending disptue. We cannot stay without water. Even, you cannot stay without water ...*(Interruptions)*... So, you have to solve the problem.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Certainly, the Government of India is very keen in solving this problem. But, unfortunately, it is before the tribunal. Unless the Tribunal gives its verdict, how can we solve the problem? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, the real problem is that the Tribunal is taking the position that in the context of Kerala, they are not likely to get any water because it involves the transfer of water from one river basin to another. Therefore, it is unlikely that Kerala will get any water. That being

the position, what is the view of the Central Government? Do they accept the position that it does not allow transfer of water from one river basin to another. It is on this point, the Minister should respond.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the issue is before the Tribunal. We will wait till the Tribunal gives its verdict. Whatever verdict is given by the Tribunal it will be binding on us.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: That is not the question. The question is what is your view? What is they view of the Central Government?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: The Tribunal is adjudicating the whole matter ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No, no. Don't put the whole thing on the Tribunal ...*(Interruptions)*... The State of Kerala, today, is deprived of water. Kerala is a 'scarce water State'. Water is being taken away from Kerala and is going to be distributed to other States. In such a case, what is the position of Kerala? Will you allow inter-river basin transfer? That is the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It all depends on the award of the Tribunal.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: What is the position of the Central Government on this? That is all I am asking.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, we have not been given any chance to put our supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You bring Cauvery issue everyday ...*(Interruptions)*... That is enough ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, Mr. Sibal is a senior Member and legal luminary. I have no personal opinion on this matter.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: So, you have no position of your own? The Government of India has no position of its own.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Whatever decision is given by the Tribunal, we are bound to abide by it ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go to the next question.